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Journal Jottings

Whether it will or whether it
won't be a good year for crops
depends largely on one factor,
the weather.

Climate plays an important role
in our lives. We listen for the
weather forecast when we get up
in the morning and check last thing
at night to see what tomorrow
will be like. Farm magazines find
that their best read feature is
the long range weather forecast.
Concern about the weather can be
as simple as putting on a coat
because it's chilly, as serious as
the wet summer we experienced
in '72, as disastrous as this year's
drought in Ethiopia.

In this issue Prof. R. H. Douglas
discusses the climatological

observatories here at Macdonald
College. In his article he states,
"Climate must be catalogued and
understood if we are to live in
harmony with our environment
and if we are to manage sensibly
those other resources which
themselves depend upon climate."

This statement could apply equally
to our second article which is an
indepth study of the use of various
mulches on horticultural crops. The
article is based on trials conducted
at Macdonald over the past four
years with a variety of vegetables.

January is a good month for read-
ing — I think you'll find good
reading in the January issue.

Hazel M. Clarke

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"How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm after they've seen Paree" went the lyrics of a popular song written just at the end of World War 1. Even 55 years ago the problem of young people leaving the farm for the bright lights of the city was recognized and passed off in a humorous, satirical way. After all, this was the heyday of North American agriculture and so what if a few farm boys left the farm. Mechanization and new crop varieties could more than make up any loss of production.

It is true that technological advances increased agricultural production tremendously during the next 50 years. But this new technology produced two results that are causing a renewed migration away from the farm today. First, a large investment in land, buildings, machinery, animals, etc., was required to make good use of new mechanization and technology. Many of these new developments just weren't practical or applicable to small farms. Second, the new technology increased agricultural production to such an extent that supply exceeded demand and resulted in a corresponding decline in farm prices.

To a young person thinking farming or to an already established farmer trying to "hang on" until retirement or expanding his operation, the situation facing him was formidable and discouraging. He faced the prospect of working almost the rest of his life to pay off a mortgage. The recent rises in farm product prices make the situation appear a little brighter, but not much considering that the prices of land, machinery, fertilizer, and gas are going up just as fast or faster than farm product prices.

The result has been an already alarming exodus of farmers from agriculture. It is estimated that 1,500 dairy farmers have left agriculture in Quebec alone in the last 18 months. Even more alarming is the fact that these are not just the small, marginal operators but some of the larger, better managed herds in the province. Not only are good farms becoming fewer in number, but fewer young people are entering agriculture. This is an even more serious situation that could seriously affect our ability to feed ourselves over the next few decades.

In many ways one can sympathize with young rural people's reluctance to enter farming. No one wants to work long hours with low pay when he could be in a nine to five

job in the city. But many rural young people want to live on a farm and would do so if the entrance requirements and rules of the game could be made a little more easier and encouraging.

The situation has become serious enough that farm groups, the agricultural industry, and government are beginning to propose programs to ease the problem. The U.P.A. has taken an initial step in the right direction in their recent policy recommendations for more liberalized, low interest credit to people entering agriculture for cash subsidies to farms that create new jobs in agriculture, and for more stringent land use regulations governing the conversion of land from an agricultural use. These are only recommendations for policy changes, however. Actual changes will have to come fast or else it is not going to be a very happy new year for agriculture, or for that matter for Quebec and Canada.

Gordon Bachman

CLIMATE AND THE COLLEGE

by Prof. R. H. Douglas
Department of Agricultural Physics

The atmosphere comprises an important component of our total natural environment, and climate is an important natural resource. Climate must be catalogued and understood if we are to live in harmony with our environment, and if we are to manage sensibly those other resources which themselves depend upon climate.

Whether or not living material is in a state of comfort or in a state of stress depends considerably upon the condition of its atmospheric surroundings and involves considerations of such atmospheric factors as radiation, temperature, humidity, and wind. Whether some life-forms can flourish at all depends, to some extent at least, on the climate. If we know something about the climatological requirements of a certain crop, for example, then we can specify zones or regions, and periods of the year, within which such a crop can flourish, and can eliminate other regions within which there is no hope of successful cultivation. Certain crops may depend, for example, upon the length of the frost-free season and on available heat-energy (heat units) during this season. Some plant-life responds so well and so specifically to certain particular factors that it can indeed be used as a climatological indicator or integrator.

The relationships of rainfall to evaporation (together with soil characteristics) determine the water state of a region and may be used to indicate the need for irrigation and the irrigation requirements; similarly, they may indicate requirements for drainage. Fuel suppliers use the concept of the

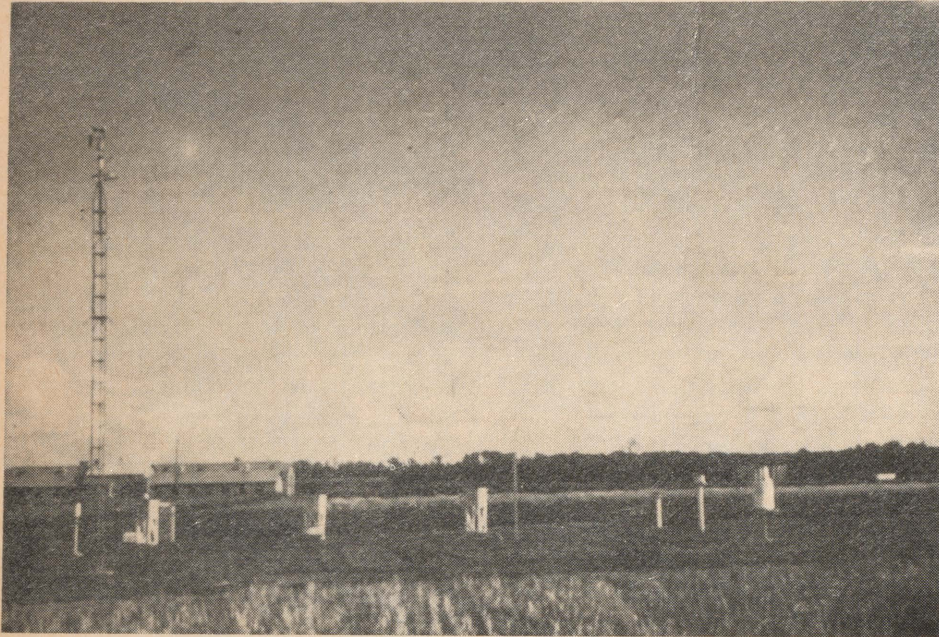
heating-degree-day in order to estimate the heating-fuel requirements of a region. Building designers make use of climatological data with respect to such problems as snow loads on roofs, wind stresses on structures, the demand for air conditioning, and so on, and the appropriate climatological factors are often used in prescribing local building codes.

A recent extension of climatological analysis has developed with respect to recreation; there has recently been published the first of several volumes of a recreational climatology of Ontario. The recreation experts having specified the optimum and limiting requirements for such winter activities as skiing and snowmobiling, and such summer activities as outdoor swimming, the climatologist has generated maps and tables setting forth the regions and the dates within which these requirements are met. We can look forward to many more such applications of climatic analysis.

Climate can be studied on all scales, from the continental scale to the back-yard scale. More and more is urban climate being examined as a particular and important example of microclimate. More and more are details of small-scale rural climates being examined also, including such items as the climatology of frost-hollows, of orchards, of forests, of hills and slopes, and of various crops. In forests and crops, we are really studying the situation in a "mixture" of air plus growing material, such as a stand of corn. As such a crop grows, the more does it affect its own microclimate, so that the situation within a crop or within a forest is not only governed by meteorological

factors, but also by the plant and crop behaviour itself.

As the importance of man's interaction with his environment becomes more appreciated, the more is there a need to examine and to define this environment; thus the importance of climatological networks. In this respect, Macdonald College plays a modest — but we hope important — role, because we have at the College a climatological observatory, in fact two. Observations began here almost 70 years ago. The old site is located behind the Barton Building, and is officially titled "Macdonald College". Some years ago, a question arose regarding the continued suitability of this site, around which buildings had grown since the original installation. This sort of encroachment of buildings raises questions concerning how "representative" such a site is, so far as a rural environment is concerned. At that time, the Atmospheric Environment Service (i.e. the Canadian Meteorological Service) was concerning itself with new "bench mark" stations, which were to be located in large open areas, and which (hopefully) would not be threatened by urban encroachment for at least several decades. Accordingly, it was decided to establish such a bench mark station on the Macdonald Farm (the Emile Lods Agronomy Research Centre) on Ste. Marie Road just east of the Arboretum. The Agronomy Department contributed a suitable area for the purpose, and during the summer of 1969 the new station was installed. Much of the equipment was moved from the old Campus site to the Farm, and was re-established there under the



supervision of the Atmospheric Environment Service, with substantial assistance from the Departments of Agronomy and of Agricultural Engineering. This equipment, and some new equipment, was provided by the AES and by the Quebec Ministère des Richesses Naturelles (Service de la Météorologie). The first observations on the new site (officially named "Ste. Anne de Bellevue") were made in the fall of 1969 and have continued ever since.

While the new Farm observatory is now the major one, the old Campus site remains in use for measurements of temperature, maximum and minimum temperatures, and precipitation, and these will be continued for several years yet. Such overlap is standard procedure when a new station is established to replace an old one: parallel observations continue until a firm climatological relationship has been established between the old long-term records and the new.

Regular observations are made twice a day, in the morning and in the late afternoon, year round. At the Farm, observations include temperature, maximum and minimum temperatures, dew-point (a measure of the amount of water-vapour in the air), wind, evaporation, snow- and rainfall, solar radiation, hours of sunshine, and soil temperatures measured at six depths extending down to about nine feet. Each month data from the new observatory are abstracted onto various forms as prescribed by the federal and provincial meteorological agencies and are forwarded to the two headquarters. These agencies run careful quality checks on our data, and advise us of errors in observations or in observational procedures. The data finally find their way into the various climatological publications and summaries issued by both governments.

During the growing season, the new Farm station has been used as a standard or control for research into the climate within growing

crops — an area of study in which the Department of Agricultural Physics has been involved for several years. Observations made on the standard site are compared with similar observations made nearby within a growing crop (corn). Any differences observed are attributable to the presence of the corn itself, and one can note the development of the peculiar in-crop climate as the crop itself grows during the season.

McGill University itself has a proud history of weather observation. The original Montreal observatory was located on the McGill Campus, over a hundred years ago. Originally located where the Leacock Building now stands, the observatory had to be moved a few years ago when that new building was constructed; the observatory is now to be found on the Lower Campus near the new Burnside Building. The climate now recorded there is an urban climate, and an examination of the lengthy records would surely reveal the extent to which urban development has altered the climate in that part of Montreal. We can also compare current Macdonald College observations with downtown McGill observations to learn more about the differences between the urban and semi-rural environments.

The AES published a census of Canadian climatological stations about a year ago, at which time they numbered just over 2,200, of which 372 were in Quebec. These numbers suggest the importance attached to climatological matters by the governments, and we can derive some satisfaction from the role played by our own Macdonald observatoires.

Mulching to Increase Earliness, Yield, and Quality of Vegetables

by Drs B. Bible and Calvin Chong
Department of Horticulture

Mulch is a protective covering (as of straw, paper, or plastic film) used on the ground to modify temperature, reduce evaporation, and control weeds. As added benefits, increased yields and early maturity of crops are often realized because of mulching.

The use of mulches on horticultural crops has been investigated periodically for over 85 years. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, both asphalt and kraft papers were tested extensively. The reevaluation of mulching which began in the late 1950s focused mainly on the use of black and clear polyethylene (poly) films as mulching materials. Poly is non-toxic to plants and resistant to decomposition by either moisture or soil organisms. It is elastic and stretches rather than tears and is easy to work with.

The use of plastic mulch, particularly black poly, has more than doubled during the past 10 years. At present some 20,000 to 25,000 acres of crop land in North America is mulched with black and clear poly. Most of the mulched acreage is in the United States, some in Ontario and little, if any, in Quebec. Poly mulches are used mostly on strawberries, tomatoes, muskmelons (cantaloupes), cucumbers, summer squash and sometimes on sweet corn, peppers, green beans, and eggplants.

In the Province of Quebec, both consumption and production of vegetables have been increasing, as shown in Table 1. Presently with an annual value of over \$18 million, not including the \$13 million yearly potato harvest, the

Table 1. Consumption and production of vegetables (potatoes not included) in the Province of Quebec

Year	Consumption		Production			Percentage self-sufficiency
	Per capita	Total	Land area	Total	Value	
	lbs. \$	million lbs	acres	million lbs.	\$ million	
1960-62	145 25	928	71,055	495	13.7	53
1965	176 27	1,082	85,770	610	14.0	56
1969	183 29	1,222	87,870	731	18.1	60
1975	— 36	1,425	—	880	—	62

Source: Ministère de l'Agriculture, Québec

production of vegetable crops contributes significantly to Quebec agriculture. The future outlook suggests continued increase in production.

To obtain information on the effect of poly films and aluminum foil on yield, earliness, and quality of tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, muskmelons, and cucumbers in Quebec, various trials have been conducted during the past four years by the Department of Horticulture, Macdonald College. These studies were supported financially by the Quebec Agricultural Research Council.

Laying the Mulch

In the spring prior to transplanting or seeding, mulches were laid in rows that were 5 feet apart. The black poly, clear poly and aluminum foil strips were 3 feet wide and ranged from 1.0 to 2.0 mils in thickness. Each strip was anchored in furrows 6 inches deep, along each edge, leaving about 24 inches of exposed mulch over the row. Slits were cut in the mulch strips at the desired spacing prior to seeding or transplanting. Although mulching was done manually in our trials, there are machines (Yellow Devil tarp layer — made

by Engine Parts Co. Cleveland, Ohio) available for laying mulch.

Tomatoes

The higher prices paid for early tomatoes of good quality has resulted in a search for practices that will improve early yield. Trials were conducted in 1970, 1971, 1972, and 1973 to compare the effect of black poly, clear poly, and aluminum foil with normal plantings on the early and total yield of tomatoes. Several varieties were used, but only the early variety Fireball was tested in all four years. On June 1, greenhouse-grown tomatoes were transplanted through the mulch in double rows on each strip of mulch. Plants were spaced at 36 inch intervals in the rows. This spacing of the tomatoes resulted in an area of 7½ square feet per plant. Fruit was harvested from early August through September 15; with early yield designated as the sum of the harvests prior to August 21. The results reported in Table 2 consist of marketable yields of Fireball tomatoes calculated in tons per acre.

In the years 1971 and 1973, early yields of Fireball on the various

Table 2. Effect of mulching on performance of Fireball tomato.

Year	Uncovered	Clear Poly	Black Poly	Aluminum foil
Early marketable yield (tons/acre)				
1970	12.9	12.8	15.5	14.9
1971	16.0	23.9	21.0	24.4
1972	14.0	13.2	14.0	17.6
1973	11.3	—	17.1	—
Total marketable yield (tons/acre)				
1970	13.8	13.1	16.0	16.2
1971	18.1	25.5	23.2	27.0
1972	18.5	23.4	22.7	25.7
1973	13.9	—	20.2	—
Percentage fruit rot				
1970	9	6	9	5
1971	16	10	7	7
1972	4	3	2	2
1973	15	—	8	—

mulches were about 45 per cent higher than on uncovered soil. In the other two years, the results were inconsistent. Aluminum foil was the most effective mulch for increasing early yield and clear poly the least.

During our trials, the total yield of marketable tomatoes on aluminum foil, black poly, and clear poly was at least 20 per cent higher than on uncovered soil. The percentage of rotten fruit was reduced by all mulch treatments.

In 1973 the small-vined, early variety New Yorker showed increases similar to Fireball. Large-vined, late varieties did not respond consistently to any of the mulches. The difference in response of these types of tomatoes to mulch is an indication of their different requirements for growing space: whereas for small-vined early varieties mulching increases the size of tomato vines and therefore fruit yield, at the close spacing used in our trials the large-vined, late varieties, which fully occupy this space, can not respond to mulching.

Sweet Peppers

The short growing season for sweet peppers in southwestern Quebec results in relatively low yields. Two mulches, clear poly and black poly, were tested in 1970, 1971 and 1972 for their effect on yield of peppers. The peppers were transplanted to the field on June 3 and were spaced at 18-inch intervals in the row (3¾ square feet per plant). Fruit was harvested from late July to September 15. The results are presented as marketable yield in tons/acre in Table 3.

In 1971 the yields of the varieties tested were not improved by

Table 3. Effect of mulching on yield of sweet peppers.

Variety	Year	Marketable yield (tons/acre)		
		Uncovered	Clear poly	Black poly
Canape	1970	5.8	6.6	8.6
	1971	14.9	14.1	12.5
Bell Boy	1971	9.3	9.5	7.9
	1972	5.2	7.3	7.8
Lincoln Bell	1971	8.4	8.4	9.5
	1972	7.4	9.0	8.4

mulching and, in fact, some treatments reduced yield slightly. In 1970 the yield of the variety Canape was increased by black poly and, in 1972, the yield of the variety Bell Boy was increased by black poly and clear poly as compared to plants in uncovered soil.

Sweet Corn

Premium prices paid for the earliest sweet corn have resulted in the use of quick maturing varieties and any other practices that hasten maturity. Trials were conducted in 1970, 1971, and 1972 to compare the value of clear poly, black poly and aluminum foil with normal plantings on the earliness and yield of sweet corn. Several varieties were used including Goldmine, Early King, Seneca Explorer, Morning Sun, Tasty Vee and Butter and Sugar. Sweet corn was seeded through the mulch strips and in the uncovered soil on May 15 at 12 inch intervals in the row. This spacing resulted in a corn plant population of 17,424 plants/acre.

Compared to uncovered soil, clear poly decreased the time from planting to harvest for the sweet corn varieties tested by four to eight days, and black poly by one

to two days, Aluminum foil had no effect on maturity. The total yield of marketable cobs was not consistently affected by mulching as shown by the data given for the variety Seneca Explorer in Table 4. The early vegetative growth of Seneca Explorer was increased about threefold by clear

Morning Sun was more than doubled by clear poly compared to corn grown in uncovered soil. In contrast, the early growth of corn seeded on June 12 was stimulated little, if any, by clear poly. On clear poly the dates of corn harvest for the May 8 and May 15 plantings were advanced

tures by 8 to 18°F, thereby dramatically stimulating growth of corn seedlings. The temperatures of uncovered soil does not become high enough for good corn growth until about mid-June.

Muskmelons and Cucumbers

At one time muskmelons were grown and marketed on the Island of Montreal but imports from southwestern U.S.A. took over the market. Mulching seems to offer the possibility of at least some muskmelon production in southwestern Quebec. It is well known that muskmelons, cucumbers, and squashes show more response to mulching than any other crops.

In 1971, 1972, and 1973, the yields of muskmelons grown on clear and black poly were compared with normal planting. Half the treatments were direct field seeded through the mulch and covered with "hot kaps" on May 15, while another group of plants were seeded in 3-inch peat pots in the greenhouse on the same date. The greenhouse-grown plants were transplanted through the mulch on June 7 in single rows at 3-ft. intervals (two plants per hill).

Fruit was harvested from mid-August to early September. In 1971, both varieties produced equally well from transplants and direct field seeding under "hot kaps" (Table 6). Clear poly increased the yield of the variety Delicious 51 by an average of 100 per cent and black poly by 48 per cent. Similar yield increases for clear poly were obtained with Delicious 51 in 1973. The later maturing variety Bender's Surprise

Table 4. Effect of mulching on yield and early vegetative growth of Seneca Explorer sweet corn

Year	Uncovered	Clear poly	Black poly	Aluminum foil
Marketable yield (doz. cobs/acre)				
1970	1936	1634	2039	2057
1971	1454	1584	1698	1661
1972	1496	1241	1716	1448
Early growth (grams/plant)‡				
1971	6.8	20.0	13.9	6.9
1972	7.7	18.5	7.1	3.2

‡25 days after planting

poly and decreased slightly by aluminum foil as compared to plants grown on uncovered soil. The effect of black poly on early growth was inconsistent.

A trial, conducted with two varieties in 1972, compared the effects of clear poly with normal planting on corn seedling growth and earliness of yield at three planting dates (Table 5). For the first two planting dates, May 8 and May 15, the early vegetative growth of the varieties Goldmine and

two to five days and two to four days respectively, whereas, the date of harvest of the June 12 planting was not affected by clear poly.

Since the first several weeks of corn growth are closely correlated with soil temperature, increased vigour and earliness is related to higher soil temperatures at this time. In early and mid-May, when soil temperatures at Macdonald College are in the 50s, clear poly mulch can increase soil tempera-

Table 5. Effect of clear poly mulch on early vegetative growth and maturity of sweet corn

		Planting date, 1972					
Variety	Mulch	May 8		May 15		June 12	
		Early growth‡	Days gained at maturity	Early growth	Days gained at maturity	Early growth	Days gained at maturity
Goldmine	Uncovered	2.3		4.1		9.4	
	Clear poly	4.8	2	10.1	2	13.3	0
Morning Sun	Uncovered	1.6		2.8		13.3	
	Clear poly	4.2	5	7.4	4	13.5	0

‡Grams / plant 25 days after planting

Table 6. Effect of mulching on yield of direct seeded and transplanted muskmelons in 1971

Variety	Mulch	Marketable yield (tons/acre)	
		Direct seeded	Transplanted
Delicious 51	Uncovered	6.2	7.6
	Clear poly	14.3	12.8
	Black poly	11.4	9.2
Benders Surprise	Uncovered	6.7	7.8
	Clear poly	11.4	10.4
	Black poly	8.9	12.3

was benefited to a lesser extent by mulching. A trial was attempted in 1972 using the varieties Delicious 51, Burpee Hybrid, and Harper Hybrid. However, the abnormally high rainfall during the summer months of 1972 damaged the muskmelons to such an extent that no yield data were recorded.

The effect of mulching on the yield of two varieties of slicing cucumbers was tested in 1972. The cucumbers were seeded in early June at the same spacing as the muskmelons. Contrary to the results with muskmelons, cucumbers showed greater yield increases on black poly than clear poly as compared to plants in uncovered soil (Table 7).

Mulching and Soil Temperature

In our trials each vegetable showed a range of responses to the mulch treatments; no particular mulch was best for all vegetables. Explanations of these effects are found in the range of soil climate modifications caused by the

mulches and the different response of each vegetable to these modifications. Mr. Neville Arnold, who worked on mulches for his Master's degree, found that compared to the temperature of uncovered soil, clear poly increased soil temperature by 8 to 18°F, black poly slightly decreased it, and aluminum foil decreased it by 8 to 18° F.

A more comprehensive study done in Connecticut showed that relative to uncovered soil, clear poly warmed the soil many degrees during the day and only a few at night. Black poly scarcely warmed the soil during the day, but kept it several degrees warmer at night. The reflective aluminum foil cooled the soil several degrees during the day and kept it several degrees warmer at night. Whereas sweet corn and muskmelons prefer the warmer and variable climate beneath clear poly, cucumbers prefer the warm and equable climate beneath black poly. Tomatoes prefer the temperate climate beneath aluminum foil.

Table 7. Effect of mulching on yield of cucumbers in 1972

Variety	Marketable yield (tons/acre)		
	Uncovered	Clear poly	Black poly
Challenger	8.2	10.4	15.6
Triumph	9.0	11.7	14.3

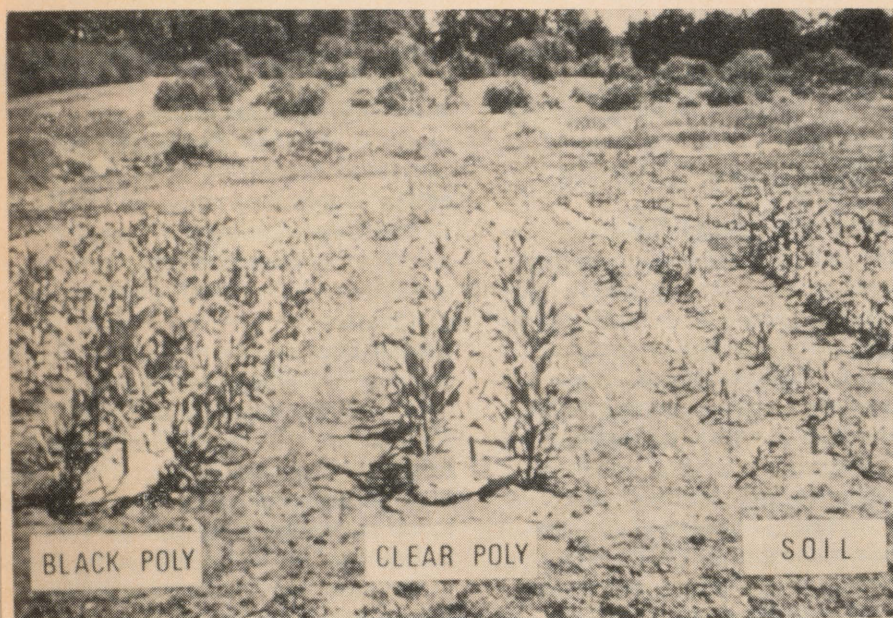
Problems With the Use of Mulches

The major drawback to the use of plastic mulches or aluminum foil is the difficulty of their removal and disposal. In some areas the mulch is disked or chopped into the ground. Some growers use flame weed burners to destroy it in the field. Usually, however, it is picked up and burned. One solution to this difficulty is to use biodegradable black kraft paper instead of black poly. Paper is more expensive than black poly, but elimination of the disposal problem (soil microbes break it down before the next season) should offset the cost difference. We found that most crops responded similarly to black kraft paper and black poly.

Peculiar to clear poly is the difficulty in controlling weeds that grow under it. One solution is to use herbicides under the clear poly. For example, atrazine provides excellent weed control under clear poly without injury to sweet corn. However, for cucumbers and muskmelons the recommended herbicides lack sustained action on the weeds under clear poly. Alternatively, green poly mulch permits considerable radiation to reach and warm the soil beneath it, while excluding sufficient light to reduce weed growth. Green poly may be an effective mulch for muskmelons and cucumbers, but we have not tested it to date. Although black poly and aluminum foil effectively block out the light needed for weed growth, these mulches, unfortunately, do not warm the soil as effectively as clear poly.

Another concern is the expense. Mulches do cost money. The cost

Top: Mulch increases earliness, vigour, and stand of sweet corn. Below: Direct seeded muskmelons under "hot kaps" with and without mulch.

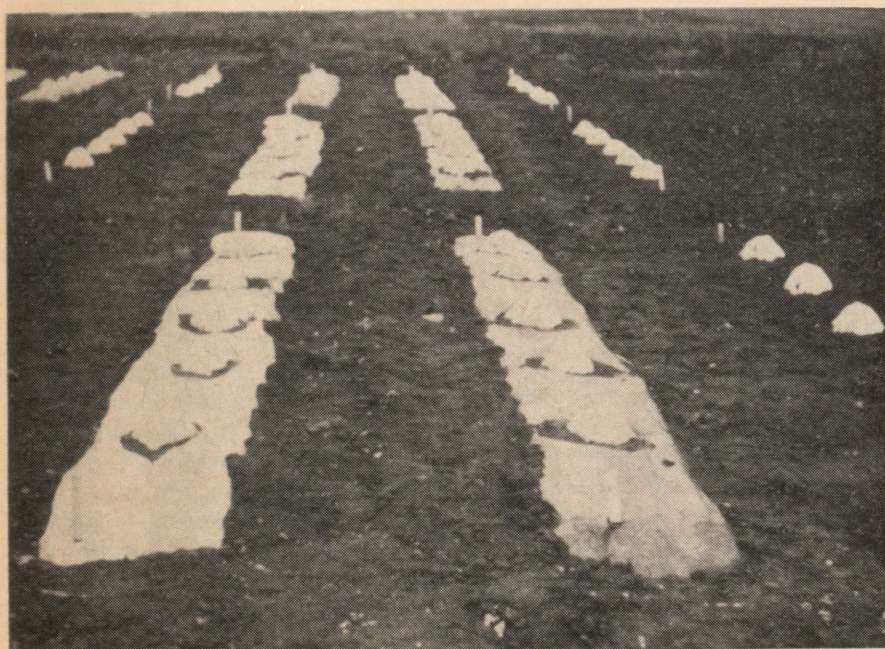


of the plastic required to cover one-half to two-thirds of the area on an acre plus the expense of laying it totals about \$150 to \$175. With the current petroleum shortage, prices of plastic products including poly may increase.

Recommendations

Although for many crops there may be less expensive ways of improving vegetable production, mulching should prove profitable on high-valued crops such as early tomatoes, muskmelons, and very early sweet corn. Mulching could be most profitable for market gardeners who have road side markets or pick-your-own operations that depend on early yields of high quality produce.

On the basis of our findings, we recommend the use of clear poly for muskmelons and early sweet corn. Aluminum foil or black poly is recommended for early varieties of tomatoes. Sweet peppers were too erratic in their response to plastic mulches to warrant any recommendation. Although mulching appears promising for cucumbers, further trials are needed.



DIRECTIONS FOR '74

by Jim Feeny,
Secretary-Manager,
Quebec Young Farmers

The 1973 Annual Meeting of the Quebec Young Farmers Provincial Federation was held at the Welden Motel in Lachute from November 23 to 25. Approximately 60 people participated — QYF members from the Eastern Townships, the Chateauguay Valley, and western Quebec; agronomes from Lachute and Chateauguay; and representatives from the Quebec Farmers' Association and Department of the Secretary of State.

The Annual Meeting is an important function for the Quebec Young Farmers because it enables us to review what we've been up to and also to judge where we're heading. I will briefly describe some of the activities discussed at the Annual Meeting, and this will give readers a pretty good idea of what QYF is all about.

One of our major programs is exchanges. These have a twofold purpose — they are social events in that the delegates have many opportunities to meet people; they are also a significant learning experience for the participant. The educational and social aspects are equally important. In 1973 the QYF sent four delegates to the Ontario Junior Farmers' Annual Meeting in Toronto, one delegate was sent to a Leadership Camp in New Jersey, and three people participated in a three-week exchange to the United Kingdom. Exchanges also involve hosting people, and we were active there, too. Seven Junior Farmers from Ontario spent a week with host families in the Lennoxville area, and nine 4-H'ers, representing the Canadian provinces other than Quebec, were entertained for three days in Montreal before moving out to French-speaking host families.

One of the more serious problems facing many rural areas at this time is the lack of community

leaders and spokesmen. The QYF is trying to help remedy this. Twenty young farmers participated in a Leadership Workshop held at Macdonald College last July. The participants were given practical training in decision-making, public speaking, and other abilities required of the successful leader.

These are a couple of the more significant activities at the provincial level. However, there is much more to the Quebec Young Farmers, all local clubs having varied programs for their members. These may include social activities such as dances or parties, educational trips, and projects, the traditional calf show at the local fair, and many others. The local clubs are free to organize any activity they want for their members, and it is hoped that even more varied projects will be undertaken by the local clubs in 1974.

After reviewing last year's activities, the delegates to the Annual Meeting were asked for ideas on how to improve our programs and how to improve our federation as a whole. They felt that our existing projects were fairly satisfactory, but suggested many ways in which these could be improved. For instance, many people thought that more emphasis should be placed on exchange within this province itself. There were three ways suggested to do this: exchanges between QYF clubs in different parts of the province, exchanges between the French-speaking and English-speaking young farmer federations, and rural-urban exchanges. Work is already being done on the first two, and they, at least, are distinct possibilities for 1974.

Another aspect of QYF many people thought needed improvement is our internal communications. These

people felt that there is not enough personal contact from the provincial to the local levels, and also that individual clubs often do not have any idea of what other clubs in the province are up to. Again, solutions were proposed. It was resolved that the executive of the provincial federation visit as many of the local clubs as possible in the next few months. This would partly solve the problem of the executive all too often being merely a signature on a letter or a voice on the phone. For the second problem, it was decided that a QYF Newsletter be organized. This Newsletter will consist mostly of items by the local clubs, describing their ideas, along with bits of news to be passed out by the provincial federation. However, the main task of the provincial federation will be to collect the articles by the local clubs, edit these, and put them together in newsletter form. Thus, it is hoped that the newsletter will be a local club project instead of an exercise for solely the provincial federation.

This is far from a complete picture of the QYF; there is much more that could be said. However, it does describe some of the activities we've been organizing for ourselves and, by inference, shows the major aim of our organization — to provide social and educational projects and activities for the English-speaking rural youth of the province. The Quebec Young Farmers is a federation of young people who are interested in agriculture and rural life; as such, it hopes to help preserve this way of life. Working together with the rural communities in which it is based, the QYF hopes that it can make a meaningful contribution towards this ideal and to everyday community life as well.

The Family

Farm

Published in the interests
of the farmers of the province
by the Quebec Department of
Agriculture

Increase Crop Production

(Notes for a speech by Mr. Gaétan Lussier, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Quebec, at the awarding of trophies to winners of world championships in the field crops section at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, November 14, 1973).

It is a great honour for me to take part in this impressive ceremony at which trophies are awarded to progressive farmers who have won world championships in the different crop classes at the 1973 Royal Winter Fair. First of all, I want to congratulate the winners, whose outstanding merit in their respective classes has been recognized by the judges. I should also like to acknowledge the merit of all the other contestants without whom the prestige of this international competition would never have reached its present high level.

In every age and country those who, in their different ways, have contributed to the improvement of crop plants are entitled to the gratitude of the populations they have helped to feed. The vital role of food growing is all the more obvious at a time when we are going through a time of food scarcity and very high prices. Today's championships thus have an even greater significance than they would have in easier times.

In fact it seems that the time has come for us in Canada, as for the rest of the world, to prepare for a big increase in crop production. The higher prices paid for farm produce during the past year encourage us to do so and the present scarcity of both food and feed makes it necessary. The huge surpluses,

which only very recently haunted farmers and governments, have now disappeared. Their place has been taken by food shortages and resulting fantastic price rises.

For at least some time to come, restrictive measures coupled with severe penalties to curb the enthusiasm of too-enterprising farmers are, so to speak, outdated. Production must now be speeded up instead. The present good prices should encourage farmers to satisfy the need. Although the present market situation may be making many consumers unhappy, it is bringing a period of relative prosperity to farmers even if the inputs they need to operate their farms are more expensive.

According to Mr. Carroll G. Brunthaver, assistant secretary of state for agriculture of the United States: American agriculture is now at the crest of a wave, the biggest we can remember.

It therefore seems altogether appropriate to suggest that agricultural production be stepped up considerably. It is nonetheless necessary for us to ask ourselves to what extent such a suggestion is justified by the present very favourable situation. To what do we owe this situation? How long is it going to last, and what conditions will come afterwards?

To what do we owe this situation?

As everyone knows, there are two main reasons for it: smaller crops and, at the same time, bigger demand. There have been adverse weather conditions in various parts of the world. Droughts in Russia, India, Africa, and Asia have greatly

reduced yields of cereals, sunflowers, peanuts, and rice and led to a world-wide deficit of food and livestock feed. In the Americas, excessive spring rainfalls delayed seeding and reduced crop yields. Fishmeal, an important protein source for livestock, has become extremely rare following the temporary disappearance of Peru's anchovies.

At the same time, consumer demand has been rising at an increasing pace. World population is growing at the rate of about 80 million a year and higher incomes are allowing more people to eat better. Moreover, devaluation of the dollar has, in addition to its inflationary effects, aggravated the scarcity of farm produce in Canada and the United States by encouraging exports.

In the livestock feed sector, protein supply has become the main problem. World need for nitrogenous food and feed has driven soya prices skyhigh. Soybean meal, which was selling for \$78 a ton in the United States in 1971, cost \$90 in 1972, and the average price for 1973 is estimated at around \$250 a ton. In July 1973 it reached an incredible high of \$470 a ton at feed-mills in Quebec.

How long will it last?

We are all aware that the present high prices cannot last indefinitely. Although not overabundant, the 1973 crops show a very appreciable improvement over those of 1972, at least in Canada. This improvement will still not be enough to bring stocks back to a normal level but it should be enough to meet

a demand somewhat diminished by high prices.

If world weather conditions are generally favourable, next year's production levels should be more in line with the needs of consumers. We have therefore grounds for believing that the present favourable price situation for farmers will last at least till the end of 1975.

After that, it is likely that, even if prices tend to decline, conditions will be decidedly better than they were before 1972-73. For it must not be forgotten that the considerably increased demand remains one of the big factors in recent developments. According to the most reliable forecasts, world trade in wheat should total between 65 and 67 million tons for 1973, compared with 52 million for 1972. Similarly, the international trade in coarse grains, which increased markedly in 1972, will show another strong increase in 1973. It is true that the 1972 world grain crop was smaller than that of 1971, but it was still the second highest of all time.

Without being unduly optimistic, we may share the farmer's pleasure in the favourable outlook for the plant products market, on which prices, although they will doubtless be lower than in recent months, will still be much higher than in the past. Furthermore, somewhat more reasonable consumer prices are bound to stimulate increased demand.

Increased demand

Together with the rise in individual income, diets are improving. Many

more people are eating higher quality food. For example, they are buying increasing quantities of livestock products like milk, meat, and eggs. We can thus expect a steady and fairly large rise in livestock numbers which, in turn, will lead to increased demand for crop products. To meet this demand, we must increase our plant productions by enlarging acreages and improving yields. We must plan tomorrow's crop productions from the standpoint of intensive farming with optimum use of soil resources.

The problem of livestock feed protein is still keenly felt at the very time when, available supplies of protein feed being still very limited, their cost is higher than ever. Faced with an increasingly pressing demand, we must therefore strongly encourage the growing of protein-rich crops such as alfalfa, soybeans and rapeseed. In Quebec we have a development plan which takes account of this need.

The Quebec Program

Methodically and insofar as our soil and climatic conditions allow, we have set out to replace traditional low-protein forage plants with alfalfa, which provides a high percentage of supplementary protein and gives a higher yield per acre. We are also striving to promote the growing of soybeans and rapeseed which will become more attractive thanks to a large oilseed mill soon to be built in the province. At the same time, we are conducting trials that we believe are dependable with a view to the promotion of field beans, another high-protein crop.

Besides trying to increase the supply of nitrogenous feeds, our program is designed to encourage other plant productions in Quebec. In this way, we are trying to make ourselves more self-sufficient in feed grains and several horticultural crops.

As regards cereals, our aim is to increase production of feed grains by about 60 per cent. Within five years we expect to increase our grain-corn areas from 120,000 to 240,000 acres. We are also putting much hope in new varieties of barley and wheat which seem well suited to our climatic conditions and promise much better yields than the ones we have been growing.

Our present horticultural situation can be much improved. We expect to do this by increasing acreages and yields and through the installation of additional facilities and modern equipment to ensure more efficient marketing. Thus we are increasing the use of conditioning and storage processes such as vacuum-cooling for lettuce, hydro-ice cooling for sweet corn, radishes and spinach, cooling tunnels for strawberries, controlled-atmosphere storage for apples, etc.

Stabilization of farm prices and incomes

Although everything indicates that farm prices will remain at a very satisfactory level for the next few years, there is always an element of risk and we must recognize the need to retain realistic policies designed to stabilize prices received for farm products and farmers' incomes. The time is past when it was taken for granted that

farmers should be tossed about by every changing condition of a capricious market as well as being exposed to the moods of mother nature.

In the past governments have often had to intervene, either to alleviate the results of natural disasters or to keep afloat farmers overwhelmed by surpluses. Now it is necessary to devise mechanisms that will ensure farmers an adequate income commensurate with that of other classes of society and, at the same time, supply consumers with quality products at reasonable prices.

Obviously, there is no question of locking the farmer into a too-rigid system that would be harmful to his initiative. It is rather a question of doing away with the excessive spread in his income range. The basic problem is to know how and how far government should intervene to raise the farmer's income without unduly burdening the consumer. So far, despite a marked improvement in the farmer's efficiency, sustained gains in productivity and a steadily declining farming population, policies intended to raise farm income have failed to bridge the income gap between the farmer and other classes of society.

Some may think that the Canadian consumer is entitled to go on being fed cheaply. However this may be, the farmer certainly has the right to a fair income and, in the past, this right has largely been denied him. There will have to be a compromise to reconcile the interests of the consumer with those of the producer. The Agricultural Stabilization Board set up in 1958 by the Agricultural Stabilization Act seems

to us the appropriate tool to reach this compromise.

Until now, that Board has been concerned with supporting farm prices and income and not in stabilizing them. But, according to the Act, the Board's "guaranteed price" is set at 80 per cent of the product's average price over the past 10 years. In a period of inflation like the one we are experiencing, such a formula cannot give the desired protection. Furthermore, the floor price, as described in the Act, is based on the price of products, without taking into account the cost of farm inputs. To prevent the producer from being squeezed by his farm input costs rising faster than the prices he gets for his products, there are grounds for tying or indexing these input costs to the floor prices as they are now calculated by the Board. This device for taking into account both the farmer's returns and his costs when calculating floor prices would have the advantage of assuring him of a certain degree of profitability.

It would also be desirable to study the possibility of having the Board play its full role in order to stabilize farmers' incomes. The Board could intervene not only when prices are low, as it does now, but also when they are high. Thus, it would intervene on the different markets by means of buying, selling, export or stock-piling operations, etc., so as to establish an equilibrium between farm production and domestic and external demand at price levels which would ensure a fair return to farmers, taking into account compensatory payments.

For the purpose of stabilizing both incomes and prices, the Board could set, at the start of each year, a floor price and a ceiling price between which market prices could range. If prices collapsed to the floor level, the Board would start making massive purchases on the domestic market to stop them from falling below it; these purchases would preferably be stock-piled or, if not, exported. On the other hand, if prices reached the ceiling, the Board would supply the market from its stocks to prevent them from rising above it. Thus, the Board would intervene whenever market prices tended to stray outside the floor-price ceiling-price bracket.

Such a price support and stabilization mechanism would have the advantage of being easily acceptable to the two parties, which are often considered to have conflicting interests. In practice, the floor prices would act in favour of the producer by preventing unduly low prices while the ceiling prices would help the consumer by preventing excessively high ones.

The advantage of a floor-price and ceiling-price mechanism is therefore to stabilize prices in a way that is acceptable to both the consumer and the producer, without introducing too much rigidity such as one gets in the case of a price freeze. Besides making it easier for the consumer to budget his spending on food, this mechanism could even lead to better allocation of resources. By reducing price fluctuations due to variations in production or demand, it would cause producers to feel less uncertain and hence less likely to let

their decision to commit resources be influenced by fear of non-economic changes such as bad weather conditions.

For greater efficiency in stabilizing the farmer's income, it would be necessary to have a tripartite body with representatives of the federal and provincial governments and the producers.

The Board so constituted should be financed out of taxes rather than out of producers' dues because, thanks to ceiling prices, it would benefit consumers as much as producers.

Conclusion

Despite the problems it entails, the present situation in the food products sector puts Canadian farmers at the crest of a favourable wave from which they must profit by stepping up the crop productions which are basic to any agro-food industry.

Those who fear a return of the unfavourable conditions of a still recent past, should look forward with confidence to the future instead. The ever-present threat of a food shortage places upon those in charge of farm policy the responsibility for introducing measures calculated to promote production so that the constantly increasing essential needs of humanity may be better met.

Operation Soya . . . 10,000 acres in 1974

A factory to extract oil from oilseed crops will shortly be built in Quebec at a cost of about \$12,000,000. The newspapers have given this much coverage.

What will the building of such a plant mean to farmers in the Montreal region? Supposing that the milling capacity of the plant will be around 1,000 tons of soybeans a day, or about the crop from more than 1,000 acres with an average yield of 30 bushels to the acre. It is easy to imagine the large market this mill — which is intended primarily for extracting soybean oil — would represent for Quebec growers and the big source of meal it would offer to Quebec livestock raisers. If, in addition, one considers the possible very high prices for soybeans, one cannot but be convinced of the desirability of stepping up soybean production in the zone where grain-corn can mature. This vast zone includes regions 6 and 7 and parts of regions 5, 8 and 10.

For 1974 the Quebec Department urges as many farmers as possible to devote part of their traditional cropland to soybeans in order to attain the 1974 target of 10,000 acres.

Our farmers once had to learn to grow grain corn and they must also learn to grow soybeans. To help them, all the Department's specialized personnel in the areas concerned will be available to give sound advice to those interested.

THE FIRST STEP is to prepare the soil well. Land intended for soybeans must have been ploughed in the fall. As in the case of corn, the incorporation of potash and phosphorus with the soil must be provided for. As soybeans must have clean (weed-free) land, it is advisable to choose a field that has been in corn for a few years but where excessive amounts of atrazine have not been used during the past two. However, some herbicides used at seeding time may control certain weeds.

THE SECOND STEP TO BE TAKEN AT ONCE is to buy seed. Seedsmen can supply varieties which should not need more than 2,700 heat units. Late varieties may not mature.

The building of an oilseed mill is quite an event and will make crop diversification possible over a large zone where climate and soil permit the growing of this very high-protein annual legume. It would be unfortunate if farmers in this zone passed up such an exceptional opportunity.

Throughout the winter, an information campaign will enable all interested farmers to learn more about soybeans and their requirements as regards tillage methods, fertilization, herbicides, varieties, harvesting, drying, storage, and marketing.

Assistance for the Production of Goose and Duck Meat Saguenay - Lake St. John— Zones I - II - III

During the past 10 years it has been almost impossible for Quebec consumers to obtain goose-meat, and they have had to rely on imports to meet over 20 per cent of their demand for duck.

In order to reduce the provincial deficit in goose and duck meat and to enable farmers to diversify their farm production and, at the same time, earn extra money, the Quebec Department of Agriculture offers to pay financial aid under the ARDA Agreement III to farmers who satisfy the requirements of the following three-year program.

1. IMMEDIATE AIM

The immediate aim of this measure is to encourage Quebec farmers to raise geese and ducks for meat and thereby add to their revenues while making as good use as possible of land unfit for cultivation.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Department will pay farmers who undertake to participate in this program a grant based on the cost of buying goslings and ducklings.

The grant will amount to half the purchase price of the birds up to a maximum of 90 cents per gosling and 35 cents per duckling or \$1,000 per year per enterprise

provided that the farmer meets the following requirements:

3. ELIGIBILITY

To benefit from this policy, the farmer or farming corporation or partnership must satisfy the following requirements:

- a) be a "producer" within the meaning of the Farm Producers Act, and farm in zones 1, II or III;
- b) be a member of a regional goose and duck breeders' club;
- c) start with a minimum of one hundred goslings or two hundred ducklings per enterprise or both at the same time;
- d) undertake to fulfil the requirements of the Department's representatives;
- e) undertake to keep satisfactory records and allow authorized personnel to have access to them.

4. APPLICATION

Farmers wishing to avail themselves of this policy must apply to their local agronome on the Department's official form between February 1 and June 1 of each year.

5. PAYMENT OF THE GRANT

The grant is paid directly to the breeder upon presentation of vouchers, following verification and approval by the authorized representative of the Department of Agriculture.

QWI

Membership Conference

Women's Institute members of **Pontiac** and **Gatineau** Counties met in Quyon on October 3, at the Beechbarn, the Lions Club Community Centre, for a one day Membership Conference.

Heavy rain did not deter 69 enthusiastic members, several having travelled many miles to attend. We were very pleased to note that a Past Provincial President, Mrs. H. Ellard of Ottawa, was among those present.

Mrs. W. Kilgour, President of Pontiac County, warmly welcomed the gathering and the meeting opened with the Collect and the singing of the Ode. The late Mrs. V. R. Beattie, Past President and Mrs. W. Coates, 2nd Vice President of Q.W.I., spoke briefly and outlined the procedure to be followed for the day.

A comprehensive review of the duties of officers, both at local and county levels, was presented and the important part that conveners play in Institute work was emphasized. The opportunity to have many pertinent questions answered was appreciated by the members.

A bountiful buffet luncheon was served during the noon hour after which discussion groups were formed, each group appointing their own chairman and secretary. Discussions centred around Q.W.I. — its future, arousing interest in communities to attract new members, revitalizing programs for more appeal and making life more meaningful for our senior citizens.

The discussions held in the groups were reported back by each secretary and interesting comments were made following each presentation. The many changes which are taking place in the rural communities were reflected in these reports and W.I. members should continue to show their concern that these changes do not adversely affect their areas but contribute to a better way of life for all ages. The exchange of ideas and thoughts on many aspects of W.I. work was stimulating and of value to the participants.

The Q.W.I. by-laws, presently under revision, were discussed and contemplated changes were explained by the Executive Officers. It was pointed out that all suggestions made by the branches would be taken into consideration by the Executive.

Following a question period, Mrs. Kilgour expressed thanks to Mrs. Beattie and Mrs. Coates for conducting such an informative and enjoyable meeting and read a very meaningful poem in keeping with the Thanksgiving theme. With the singing of the Hymn of All Nations the most pleasant day was brought to a conclusion. It was felt that this one day session with many members taking part was beneficial to everyone attending. It also afforded Provincial Officers the opportunity to meet and become better acquainted with more Q.W.I. members.

Attention All Conveners

If you have not already done so, will branch conveners please send an interim report to your county convener at once. County conveners

please send an interim report to your provincial convener as soon as possible.

News from Murdochville

The **Murdochville** branch (Gaspé Co.) presented a Life Membership to Mrs. M. Coffin. Money was donated to the Student Council for the educational tour to Ottawa. Prizes were also given to the local high school boys for works of art.

A letter was sent to the Town Council asking to check on the speeding of cars and motorcycles. No reply was received but our town is quieter!

The Annual W.I. Fair was held here in Murdochville and was a great success with 856 exhibits. A turkey and salad supper was served. Tickets were sold on a Hudson Bay blanket which was donated by The Bay. Christmas gifts were sent to the children at Ross Sanitorium in Gaspé.

Shipton School Fair

The School Fair sponsored by the **Shipton** W.I. (Richmond Co.) was held in the A.D.S. Elementary School gym on September 20 and 21 with 99 students exhibiting 234 prize-winning entries. Irwin Perkins was the top winner with a total of 24 prize-winning entries netting him \$8.70 plus \$3.00 as first prize and the W.I. trophy. Irwin's name will be engraved on the trophy beside those of his two brothers — Bruce who had the trophy in 1965 and Avery in 1967.

Miss Peggy Stalkes came second with 15 prize-winning entries

om left to right: Miss Peggy Stalkes, cond-prize winner at the School Fair onsores by the Shipton W.I., Mrs. J. ney, President of Shipton, and Irwin rkins, who won first prize and the .I. trophy.



etting Peggy a total of \$5.10 us \$2.00 as second place. Her ster Jolene came third with 12 rize-winning entries and she ceived \$3.90 for good work. ongratulations were also extended six other children — Peter Leet, onnie Le Roux, Kelly Andrews, earlene Williams, Ricky Bushey, and Danny Mosher — who all did ery well.

Speech Therapists

about 50 years ago there began be specific training for speech erapists, first of all in Europe. hortly after that, some American niversities began to offer courses. 1956 the University of Montreal became the first in Canada to train eech therapists. The University Toronto followed in 1958 and en McGill in 1963. Today there e six offering such courses, om Montreal to Vancouver.

ust what kind of work would e find a speech therapist, or eech pathologist, as they are ometimes called, doing? Speech, articularly in the child who is still arning to use it, can be disrupted y many kinds of factors: physical capacity, mental retardation, otional disturbance, learning oblems, an impoverished milieu, nd various kinds of illness. Speech erapists can therefore be found work in many kinds of settings: ospitals (both general and spe- alized), institutions for the retard- d or the mentally ill, schools, and, a few areas, travelling at large all on people who are carrying ut, as volunteers, programs she as recommended for patients

living too far from a major centre to otherwise get the therapist's help.

Some therapists make a specialty of working with deaf children. Fitted with an appropriate hearing aid, children who have never before heard most of the sounds in the world need training in listening, to learn to recognize where different sounds come from, and what ones people can make in order to talk. Slowly, but surely, with the patient help of a speech therapist, they learn to make the sounds themselves and then use words to express their needs and their ideas. The audiologist and the speech therapist work closely together in this kind of setting, and indeed are often one and the same person.

Another whole area of specialization is with those individuals, mostly adults, who are victims of strokes or accidents. Such people may be unable to form the sounds of words, may have trouble finding their words, or even be unable to put words together into sentences to express themselves coherently. Fortunately, in most cases, the combination of medical skill, healing over a period of time, and numerous sessions of practice with a speech therapist and on homework she prescribes, makes the patient once again able to talk freely and easily.

Those who have lost their voice box (the larynx) to cancer, also need training to learn to talk again. This training used to be given by speech therapists, but more and more is being done by people who themselves have lost the larynx and learned to talk again — a very encouraging

example to those just starting out on the road.

Wider still is the range of services offered by the speech therapist working with children. Hers is the challenge of deciding why a pre-school youngster brought to her has not yet begun to talk. A background of knowledge in medicine, psychology, and the development of language, as well as just plain experience with a great many children, allows her to recognize the problem and plan the best way of helping the child and his family cope with it.

Between the age of two and 3½ or so the child perfects an incredible number of skills. The exact moment when each individual learns each particular thing can vary enormously, and this is as true for talking as it is for learning to ride a tricycle, doing up his own clothes, and learning to use a pencil or crayon.

Some families need only the reassurance that Johnny, who doesn't say a lot at age three, is as normal as Susie who does say a lot at age 2½. If Johnny doesn't talk yet, he almost certainly soon will, especially if his Mother talks to him about the things around him, reads him stories, and gives him the chance to ask, in words, for the things he wants or needs.

There are, however, a few unfortunate Johnny's who won't automatically learn to talk. The speech therapist, in assessing Johnny upon his first visit to her office, keeps an eye open for signs that he may not hear well, that he may have an emotional disturbance, or some sort of brain damage, or

Marcil W.I. recently celebrated their 25th Anniversary. Pictured are Mrs. Cameron Dow, who organized the first meeting, Mrs. Jones, Provincial Convener of Education, and some of the members.



that he may be retarded. If no such signs are present, the family can be reassured that Johnny soon will talk.

If the evidence is that Johnny needs the services of an audiologist, a psychiatrist, a neurologist, or a psychologist — or any other health specialist — the speech therapist will refer the family to these professionals, and work in close collaboration with them to plan Johnny's treatment. If it is apparent that he isn't going to talk all by himself, the speech therapist will work with him and often suggest things his mother can do with him at home.

A few children, for reasons that are sometimes hereditary, are merely a fair bit later than others in learning to talk. In such cases, the speech therapist can guarantee that they'll catch up. For those who have other problems at the same time, the picture is more complicated, but the end results are still happy more often than not.

Something which has disturbed many a parent is the fact that some children can say all their sounds correctly at the age of four, and others not until the age of five or even six. The sounds most likely to cause difficulty are **s**, **r**, and **th**, but there is no real need for worry unless the youngster has reached the age of seven without being able to say these sounds. After that, the speech therapist can quickly help him master them; before that, his mouth is not really "grown up" enough to do it.

When a child arrives at school age, he may have serious problems learning to read and write, which bring him under the speech ther-

apist's care. The term "dyslexia" is applied to cases where a child has abnormally great difficulty with reading and writing, and often, as well, cannot organize his language to express his thoughts coherently. This can be one of the most challenging and yet the most rewarding things a speech therapist has to deal with. Such a child often has a miserable feeling that he'll never be good for anything — completely unwarranted, since most dyslexic children are very intelligent indeed, and well above average in their ability for everything but reading. What a wonderful thing to watch them discover, with an understanding person to help, that they **can** learn to read, and they **can** make language work for and not against them.

Through the speech therapist's office also come children needing help because of stuttering, lisps, serious confusion of sounds in words (they might say "leletant" instead of "elephant"), perpetually hoarse voice, cleft palates, and speech affected by cerebral palsy or accidents.

A vast and fascinating field, presided over by one of the health professionals eager to help you and your family get, and stay, in the best of health.

Mrs. Merlin Lewis,
Q.W.I. Welfare and Health
Convener.

Dear W.I. Members

A Happy New Year to all!

Did you know W.I. is news in Canada's North? From a Yellowknife, N.W.T., newspaper sent to me by my daughter-in-law, I found

W.I. news and a picture of the new W.I. Field Worker of the North, Mrs. Rachel Paton, along with the Chairman of the W.I. Northern Committee, Mrs. Martha Bielish. At present Mrs. Paton's main task will be to organize and coordinate Territorial W.I. branches.

The W.I. has been active in nine Territorial centres since 1960 — Yellowknife will be the tenth.

And, in the East, W.I. made news in N.B. when the Rusagonis Covered Bridge Park was officially opened by the Central Rusagonis W.I. in the presence of many dignitaries. This project had been developed jointly with the League for Rural Development. Reading this brought a touch of nostalgia to me as I had walked and driven through this bridge many times years ago.

A French film company was making a film recently at a location in St. Armand. Two members of **Stanbridge East**, Mrs. Selkirk and Mrs. Primmerman, were privileged to appear in it.

Ascot members answered roll call by opinions on 'Women's Lib' and felt that no lack of freedom is evident and that old-fashioned deference was still gratifying.

Alexander Galt Regional High School students received Bursaries, Scholarships and awards from **Ascot** and **Milby** (Sherbrooke Co. several branches in Compton Co. and Stanstead Co. **Bury** gave a donation towards "Gravediggers" a group at this school writing a book on "Tales and Legends" of the area.

Compton Co. branches are being instructed in the use of a portable

respirator. There is rather a sad story behind this. A young woman from the community was stricken with bronchiectasis when she was 2. She spent a year at St. Agathe and had remissions of the disease from time to time, enough so that she was quite well for a time, married and had a son. During a very bad time, the community helped to buy the respirator (Bury, Brookbury, Canterbury) and her health improved for a while, but she worsened and died last winter in her early forties). It was her son who demonstrated the respirator, and it is kept in St. Paul's home in case any one needs it.

Mrs. Merrill Taber received a 50 year bar pin at **Melbourne Ridge** and **Douglastown** reports a new member.

Many branches paused in silence in memory of our late Q.W.I. Past President, Mrs. V. R. Beattie. Some **Gore** members represented their branch as a guard of honour at Mrs. Beattie's funeral. War dead and veterans were also remembered in a variety of ways.

Reports showed much planning and preparation for Christmas meetings and ways of remembering sick, shut-ins, and, as **Rawdon** said, "We invited everyone in Rawdon that we knew would be spending Christmas alone."

Vest Island is enabling a local child to participate in a local Day Care Centre and contributed to C.W.W.'s Operation Eyesight.

Richmond Young Women's Mrs. E. Simpson given a Life Membership. Also from their report . . . More catering jobs in view, and with

the rising cost of food? **Rupent** and **Aylmer East** served tea at the Ottawa Winter Fair. **Aubrey-Riverfield** learned how they could assist the school nurse in

serving breakfast to needy students at the school. **Huntingdon** heard about modern pioneers, one of them being the lady who started the branch, Mrs. L. R. Stephen.

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Dunham visited the Caughnawaga Reservation — touring the Longhouse, St. Francis Xavier Mission and Museum. Kinnear's Mills visited Beauce Potteries and, from an article read, members learned it is more economical to keep turning ordinary lights off and on when necessary but not fluorescent lights. From Dunham's report A record! All conveners heard from at this meeting.

Having been visiting lonely and elderly people myself this month, fully agree with Cowansville's report. "What Help is Needed in a Town Like Ours" was the theme chosen for the guest speaker, Rev. Canon John Peacock. Speaking of the many lonely and elderly people, he suggested to the members that as one of their objectives they visit these people.

Cleveland W.I. held a potluck supper on October 20 at the United Church Hall. Twenty-three sat down to a bountiful supper of casseroles, salads, rolls, pies, squares, and doughnuts. This was for members, families and four guests. Mr. and Mrs. John Barrington showed coloured slides of the Ron Smith tour of Britain which included places in England, Scotland and Wales. They were much enjoyed.

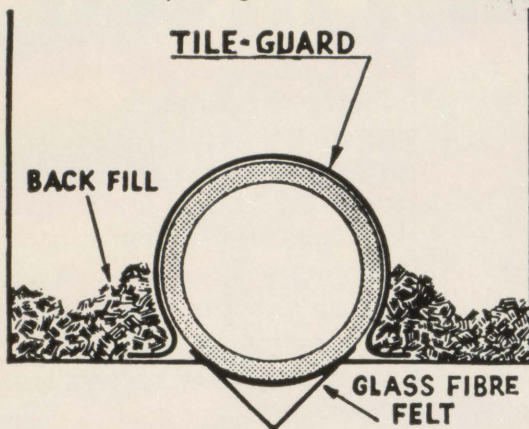
Mrs. Perley Clark,
Q.W.I. Publicity Convener.

Members Who Served Nationally

The Grace E. Frysinger International Fellowship is a dedication to the furtherance of greater understanding between women of all countries, and is a tribute to the inspiring vision of Grace E. Frysinger, National Vice-President of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association. The Fellowship comprises a United States candidate's visit to rural and urban homes in a selected country (Canada has been chosen for 1975) and an exchange awardee from the selected country will receive reciprocal experience in the U.S. There is no expense for the Canadian awardee. If you have served nationally and are interested, please contact your Provincial Office at Macdonald College immediately for full details. Applications must be sent to the F.W.I.C. President Mrs. John A. McLean by January 20.

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